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ABSTRACT

This study attempts to discern the rate at which first-time-in-college (FTIC) Austin Community College (ACC) (Texas) students transfer to senior institutions, and which senior institutions they choose to attend. Highlights of the report include: (1) From 1990-1993, Austin Community College students transferred to four-year institutions at a higher rate than community college students elsewhere in Texas; (2) In each of these years, one-third of FTIC students majoring in academic areas transferred to senior institutions, both from ACC and statewide; (3) Comparison of the percent of change in the number of transfers from one year to the next for ACC and statewide reveals an inverse relationship, with ACC's rate increasing where the statewide rate decreases; and (4) about one-fifth of ACC's FTIC students majoring in technical areas transfer to senior institutions, while slightly over one-tenth of statewide students do. The majority of ACC transfer students (63% in 1996-97) went to the University of Texas at Austin, while 21% went to Southwest Texas State University and most remaining chose another of Texas' 33 public universities. Appended is a table of transfer rates by ethnicity and a list of transfer institutions in Texas. (EMH)

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Austin Community College
Transfer Rate Report
Spring 1999

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Austin Community College Transfer Rate Report
Spring, 1999

In April, 1995, the Texas Association of Junior and Community College Instructional Administrators (TAJCCIA) recommended Texas community colleges, "collect and maintain data to identify specific problems and improve results of student transfer from two-year to four-year colleges." (*Transfer Success Work Group Report, April, 1995.)*

In response to that recommendation, this report attempts to answer the following questions relevant to ACC's transfer function:

1. *At what rate do ACC students transfer to senior institutions?*
2. *To which senior institutions do they go?*

1. At What Rate Do ACC Students Transfer to Senior Institutions?

Transfer rates are percentages calculated by dividing the number of students who have transferred by the number of students who could potentially transfer.

$$\text{Transfer Rate} = \frac{\text{Transfer Students}}{\text{Potential Transfer Students}} \text{ X } 100\%$$

There have been two main approaches to identifying the denominator in this formula, each resulting in vastly different rates, and both limiting the usefulness of the resulting data for assessing the effectiveness of the transfer function of community colleges. One transfer rate is a measure of the extent to which a community college produces associate degree graduates (denominator) that go on to universities to complete their baccalaureate education (numerator). An assumption of this rate is "all students who enroll in the community college do so to complete an associate degree." This rate is traditionally quite high, but reflects behaviors of only a small proportion of the total community college student population. The other transfer rate measures the extent to which all students enrolled in a community college (denominator) continue their education at a senior institution (numerator). An assumption of this rate is "all community college students are intending to transfer to a senior institution." This formula has resulted in very low transfer rates for community colleges, and more importantly, does not accurately reflect the goals of all community college students. Many community college students have no intention of transferring, but rather are taking courses to upgrade skills required for their current job, to gain skills to qualify for a particular job, or simply to enrich their lives. These students should not be included in the formula for calculating a transfer rate.

To determine a transfer rate that represents a measure of the effectiveness of the transfer function, then, requires a definition of the denominator that reflects student intent to transfer. If the rate is to be a true measure of the transfer outcome, the denominator must include only the students who attend the community college with the intention of transferring to a senior institution. Few community colleges, however, currently collect "student intent to transfer" data. ACC began collecting this data with the Fall 1998 New Student Application and will, under DATATEL registration, continue to do so each time a student registers. The transfer rate calculated from these data will constitute a useful outcomes measure for the transfer function.

Until student "intent to transfer" data are available, a college must define the numerator and denominator for calculating transfer rates using data currently available. The resulting transfer rate, then, is a description of the movement of students from community colleges to senior institutions rather than "outcomes" data, and, in the absence of outcomes data, this rate can only be used to measure the effectiveness of the transfer function by comparing it with the rates of other institutions.

FTIC Transfer Rate

The THECB *Transfer Effectiveness Report* provides transfer data for cohorts of first-time-in-college (FTIC) students who enrolled in summer or fall of a given year, attended at least two semesters, and earned at least 15 semester credit hours (SCH). Four years following the first enrollment of the cohort, a transfer rate is calculated by the THECB that compares the number of students in the cohort who are enrolled in a Texas public senior institution to the number of students in the cohort who are no longer enrolled in the community college. Cohort students still enrolled in a two-year institution at the time of the measure are removed from calculation of the transfer rate. (The denominator includes only cohort students who, four years later, are no longer enrolled in the community college; the numerator includes only cohort students who, four years later, are enrolled in a senior institution.)

This rate answers the question, "What percent of students who began their college education at a community college and are no longer enrolled in that community college, have continued their education at a senior institution within four years of their first community college enrollment?" This rate is the one commonly referred to when speaking of a community college's "transfer rate." Table 1 displays ACC and statewide FTIC transfer rate data from the *Transfer Effectiveness Report* for four FTIC cohort years, 1990-1993.

Table 1: Four Year Transfer Rates of FTIC Students

Cohort Year	FTIC Students	Students with at least 15 SCH in 2 Semesters	Students Not Still Enrolled	Students Transferring within 4 Years	Transfer Rate
ACC 1993	3,787	2,541	1,649	495	30.0%
State 1993	82,752	56,904	39,640	10,474	26.9%
ACC 1992	3,852	2,592	1,645	446	27.1%
State 1992	83,277	57,552	13,358	10,308	26.0%
ACC 1991	3,723	2,506	1,650	528	32.0%
State 1991	82,076	56,071	38,458	9,880	25.7%
ACC 1990	3,801	2,424	1,495	476	31.8%
State 1990	77,144	51,453	34,790	8,812	25.3%

Source: Transfer Effectiveness Report, 1990-1993

ACC FTIC transfer rates compare favorably with statewide FTIC transfer rates for each of the four cohort years displayed. For each cohort year, of the FTIC cohort students who did not return to ACC, nearly one third were enrolled in a Texas public senior institution four years following their first enrollment at ACC. For this same time period, one fourth of all statewide

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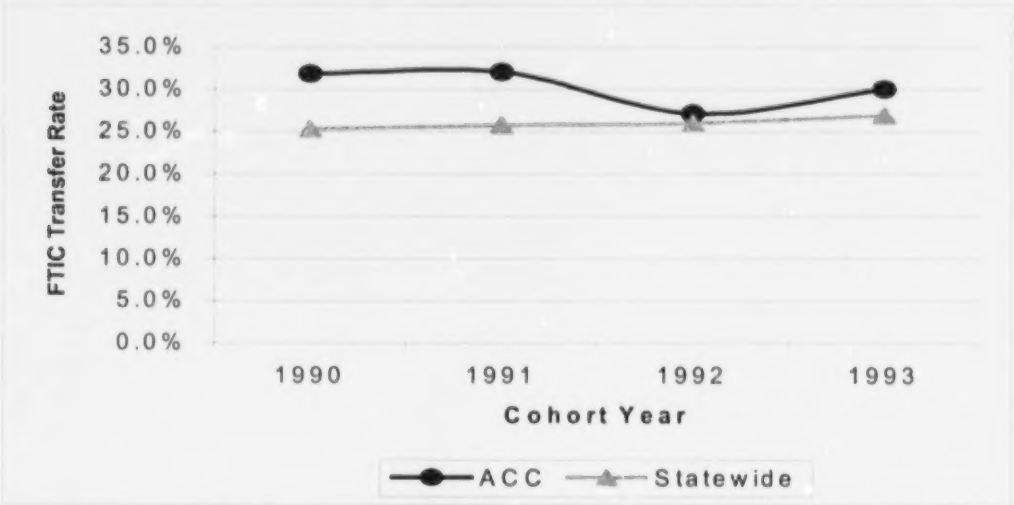
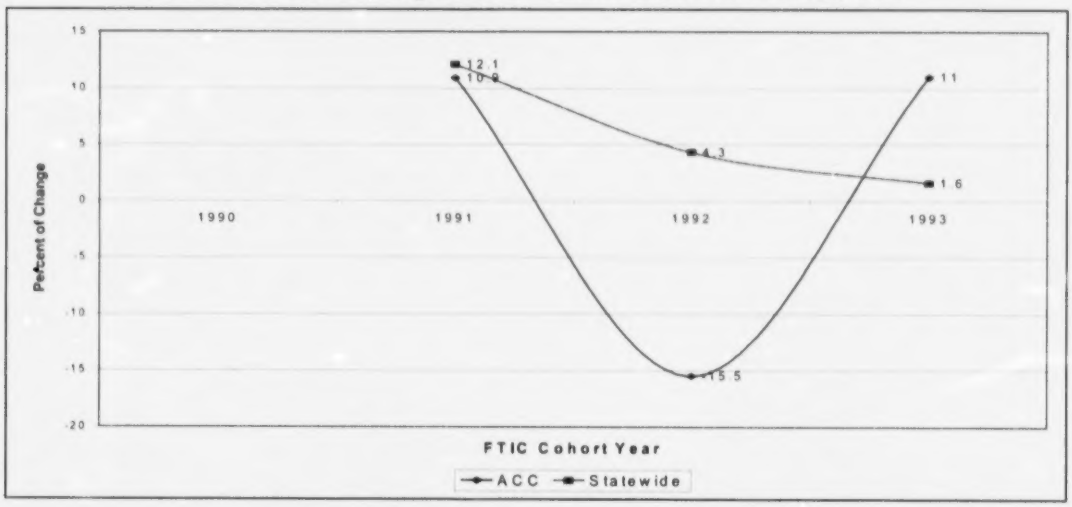
FTIC cohort students were enrolled in a Texas public senior institution. Chart 1 displays this comparison.

Chart 1: FTIC Transfer Rate Comparison



It is worth noting, however, that the percent of change from one year to the next for ACC's FTIC transfer rates varies much more than the percent of change for statewide transfer rates. Whereas the statewide change in FTIC transfer rate from one year to the next has varied slightly in a downward trend, ACC's transfer rate has changed considerably from one cohort year to the next, and for the most current cohort year, is increasing. Chart 2 displays this comparison.

Chart 2: Percent Change in FTIC Transfer Rate Over Previous Year



The above data are for all students in the cohort. Additional transfer rates are also calculated by the THECB for students majoring in academic or technical areas. As would be

expected, transfer rates for students declaring academic majors are greater both for ACC and statewide than for students declaring majors in technical areas.

ACC's FTIC transfer rates for students declaring academic majors compare favorably with those statewide. For most of the four cohort years examined, about one third of FTIC students majoring in academic areas transferred to senior institutions, both from ACC and statewide. Table 2 displays these data. Attachment I displays transfer rates by ethnicity for 1993 cohort students majoring in academic areas.

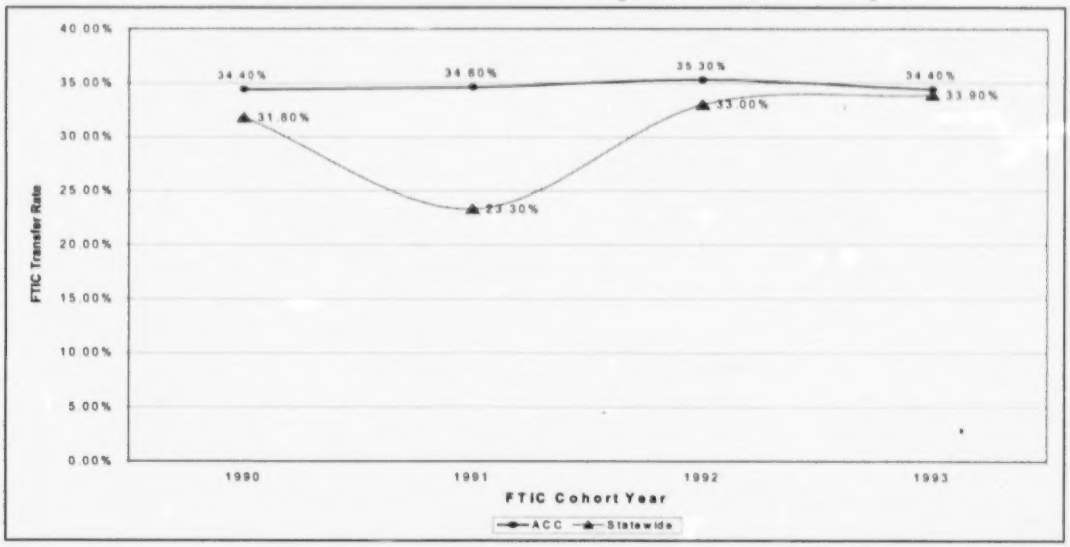
Table 2: FTIC Transfer Rate—Academic Majors

Cohort Year	FTIC Students	Students with 15 SCH in 2 Semesters	Students Not Still Enrolled	Transfer Students	Transfer Rate
ACC 1993	2,556	1,748	1,143	399	34.4%
State 1993	55,691	39,271	26,612	9,019	33.9%
ACC 1992	1,325	985	652	230	35.3%
State 1992	53,804	38,414	26,282	8,676	33.0%
ACC 1991	1,003	747	314	178	34.6%
State 1991	40,041	29,188	20,112	6,489	23.3%
ACC 1990	906	641	398	137	34.4%
State 1990	37,073	26,211	18,011	5,719	31.8%

Source: Transfer Effectiveness Report, 1990-1993

However, ACC's FTIC transfer rates for students majoring in academic areas were higher each year than statewide FTIC transfer rates for those students. Differences in ACC's and the statewide rate ranged from a high of 11.3 percent for the 1991 cohort year to a low of only half a percent for the 1993 cohort year. Chart 3 displays this comparison.

Chart 3: FTIC Transfer Rate Comparison—Academic Majors



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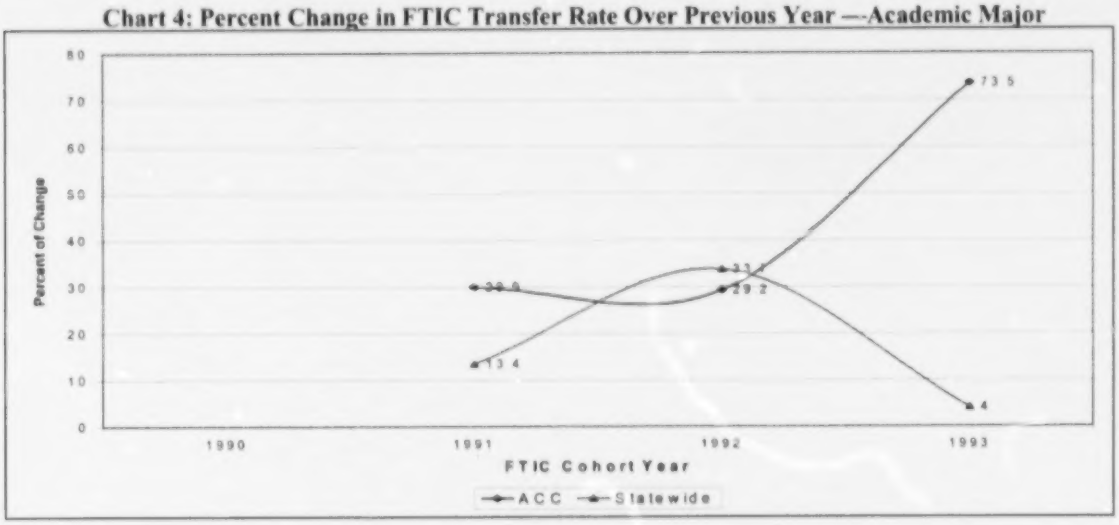
Comparison of the percent of change in the number of transfers from one year to the next for ACC and statewide reveals a mirror image, with ACC's rate increasing where the statewide rate decreases and vice versa. Chart 4 displays these data.

Chart 4: Percent Change in FTIC Transfer Rate Over Previous Year —Academic Major



Students in technical majors, though not in such large percentages as students in academic majors, transfer from ACC to Texas public senior institutions in rates greater than statewide also. About one fifth of ACC's FTIC students majoring in technical areas transfer to senior institutions while slightly over one tenth of statewide students do so. Differences between ACC and statewide rates range from a low of eight percent for the 1993 cohort to a high of 12.7 percent for the 1991 cohort. Table 3 displays these data.

Table 3: FTIC Transfer Rate—Technical Major

Cohort Year	FTIC Students	Students with 15 SCH in 2 Semesters	Students Not Still Enrolled	Transfer Students	Transfer Rate
ACC 1993	1,094	713	457	90	19.7%
ACC 1993	1,094	713	457	90	19.7%
State 1993	25,816	16,826	11,768	1,374	11.7%
ACC 1992	2,527	1,607	993	216	21.8%
State 1992	29,473	19,138	13,358	1,632	12.1%
ACC 1991	1,145	724	481	120	24.9%
State 1991	22,223	14,864	10,528	1,286	12.2%
ACC 1990	987	631	398	94	23.6%
State 1990	20,406	13,568	9,445	1,064	11.3%

The percent of change from year to year in FTIC transfer rates for students majoring in technical areas varies similarly for both ACC and statewide groups. Additionally, for the 1993

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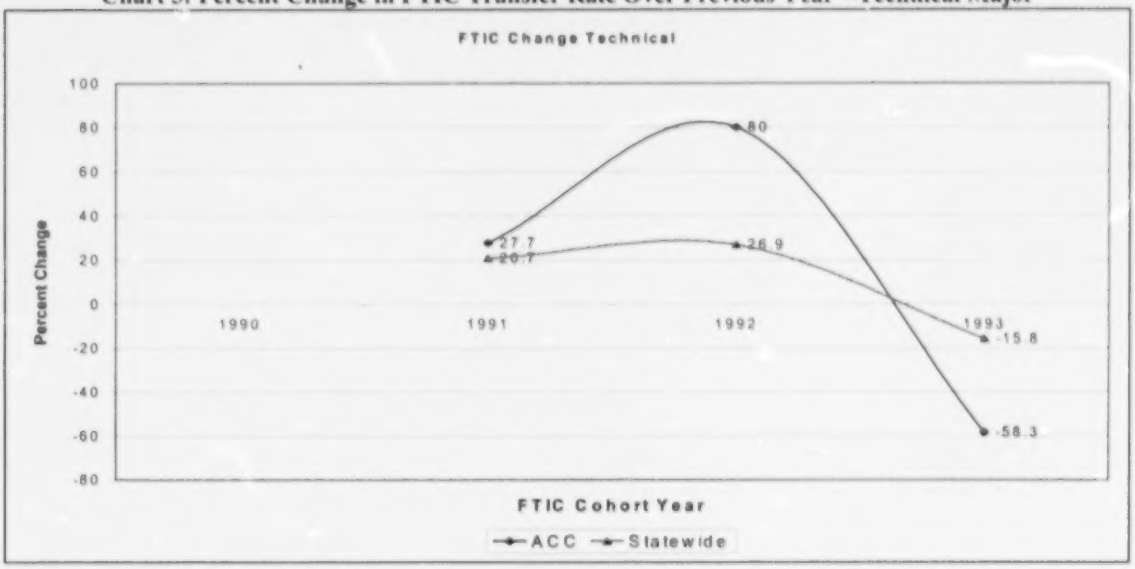
FTIC cohort year, the percent of change for both is declining, perhaps due to a healthy employment rate. Chart 5 displays these data.

Chart 5: Percent Change in FTIC Transfer Rate Over Previous Year --Technical Major



2. To Which Senior Institutions Do They Go?

Identifying the senior institutions in which students enroll when they leave ACC assists the College in inviting articulation agreements with, and requesting performance data from, those senior institutions, thereby improving the transfer process for students. The THECB produces a report which identifies those institutions.

The THECB report, *Students Pursuing Additional Education--By Institution (Graduates and Non-Returners),* tracks non-returning students who were enrolled in a Texas public community or technical college during a given academic year and then enrolled the following fall semester in any Texas public higher education institution. For each community or technical college, the report lists the number of its non-returning (including graduates) students who transferred to community colleges, universities, or health sciences centers. Beginning with the 1996 academic year, the THECB provided a statewide comparison report of these data. Data from this report can be used to answer the question, "Of the students who transfer to another institution during the fall semester after leaving ACC, what proportion enrolled in Texas public universities?"

Table 4 displays ACC and statewide comparative data from the THECB's, *Academic Year 1996-97 Students Pursuing Additional Education--By Institution (Graduates and Non-Returners)* report for all academic year 1996 non-returning students enrolled in a Texas public community college, university, or health sciences center in the fall of 1997. (This is the only year for which

comparative data are available.) Attachment 2 lists all institutions to which ACC students transferred.

Table 4: ACC and Statewide Comparison--All Academic Year 1996 Non-Returning Students Pursuing Additional Education Fall 1997

Other Institution	ACC		Statewide	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Community College	940	10.5	33,105	27.5
University	7,951	88.8	85,193	70.8
Health Science Center	67	0.7	1,999	1.7
Total	8,958	100.0	120,297	100.0

Source: Academic Year 1996-97 Students Pursuing Additional Education--By Institution (Graduates and Non-Returners)

Both at ACC and statewide, the majority of all academic year 1996-97 non-returning students who pursued their education at another institution in Fall 1997, did so in a Texas public university. The percentage of ACC students who transferred to universities was greater than the percentage of statewide students, while the reverse is true for students who transferred to either another community college or a health science institution. This pattern holds for non-returning students majoring in academic areas as well. Table 5 displays data for students majoring in academic areas.

Table 5: ACC and Statewide Comparison--Academic Year 1996 Non-Returning Students Pursuing Additional Education Fall 1997--Academic Majors

Other Institution	ACC		Statewide	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Community College	616	8.0	19,331	21.9
University	6,988	91.3	67,246	76.3
Health Science Center	49	0.9	1,601	1.8
Total	7653	100.0	88,178	100.0

Source: Academic Year 1996-97 Students Pursuing Additional Education--By Institution (Graduates and Non-Returners)

For non-returning students majoring in technical areas however, a greater percentage of ACC's students transferred to health sciences institutions, as well as to universities, than statewide. Table 6 displays data for students majoring in technical areas.

Table 6: ACC and Statewide Comparison--Academic Year 1996 Non-Returning Students Pursuing Additional Education Fall 1997 --Technical Majors

Other Institution	ACC		Statewide	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Community College	215	23.5	9,239	39.8
University	683	74.6	13,640	58.7
Health Science Center	18	2.0	341	1.5
Total	916	100.0	23,220	100.0

Source: Academic Year 1996-97 Students Pursuing Additional Education--By Institution (Graduates and Non-Returners)

The *Students Pursuing Additional Education--By Institution (Graduates and Non-Returners)* report also provides information on which specific institutions ACC graduates and non-returning students transferred to from one academic year to the next. Data for the past five years indicate approximately 90 percent of ACC's non-returning students who transferred to

Texas public universities enrolled in one of four universities to continue their education: The University of Texas at Austin (UTAustin), Southwest Texas State University (SWTSU), Texas A&M University (TAMU), or Texas Tech University (TTU). Those who do not transfer to these universities enroll in one of 31 other Texas public universities. Table 7 displays these data.

Table 7: Texas Public Universities to which ACC's Non-Returning Students Transferred

Year	University of Texas at Austin		Southwest Texas State University		Texas A&M University		Texas Tech University		31 Other Texas Public Universities		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
1996-97	5,057	63.6%	1,691	21.3%	340	4.3%	162	2.0%	701	8.8%	7,951
1995-96	5,697	63.8%	1,844	20.6%	366	4.1%	201	2.2%	828	9.3%	8936
1994-95	5,512	63.4%	1,754	20.2%	439	5.0%	196	2.3%	796	9.2%	8697
1993-94	5,393	64.3%	1,641	19.6%	406	4.8%	183	2.2%	770	9.2%	8393
1992-93	5,270	64.2%	1,565	19.1%	441	5.4%	134	1.6%	794	9.7%	8204

Source: Academic Year 1996-97 Students Pursuing Additional Education--By Institution (Graduates and Non-Returners)

Consistently over the past five years, just under two thirds (63.4% - 64.3%) of ACC's non-returning students who transferred to a Texas public university enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin following their last ACC enrollment, and about one fifth (19.1% - 21.3%) enrolled in Southwest Texas State University to continue their education. The percent of students transferring to SWTSU has been increasing steadily since academic year 1992-93, while the percentages of students enrolling in UTAustin and all other Texas public universities has fluctuated.

Summary:

1. At what rate do ACC students transfer to senior institutions?

Three of every ten first time in college students who have earned at least 15 semester credit hours in at least two semesters at ACC transfer to a Texas public senior institution. This number increases to one of every three students majoring in academic areas and decreases to one of every five students majoring in technical areas. Additionally, ACC's transfer rates exceed statewide rates.

2. *To which senior institutions do they go?*

The majority of non-returning ACC students who pursue further education in Texas public institutions following their last enrollment at ACC, transfer to universities, and most of those students enroll in the University of Texas at Austin and Southwest Texas State University.

Attachment I

Comparison of ACC, Seven Metro Community Colleges, and Statewide THECB Transfer Rates by Ethnicity 1993 FTIC Cohort Students Majoring in Academic Areas

Note: Percentages are of the cohort sub-group, i.e., 37.5% of ACC White cohort students transferred, 13.1% of ACC Black cohort students transferred, 24.4% of ACC Hispanic cohort students transferred, etc.

Community College	Overall	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian	International
ACC	34.9%	37.5%	13.1%	24.4%	53.2%	75.0%	34.4%
Alamo	19.8%	30.6%	14.2%	13.5%	14.9%		21.4%
DCCCD	31.1%	36.9%	15.0%	16.4%	43.8%	19.0%	24.3%
El Paso	12.0%	19.6%	16.7%	10.9%		25.0%	
Houston	31.2%	34.0%	19.5%	20.2%	51.2%		41.4%
NHMCCCD	36.2%	37.0%	23.6%	29.6%	49.3%		14.3%
San Jacinto	35.6%	37.0%	20.3%	31.3%	43.1%	33.3%	55.6%
Tarrant	28.0%	30.5%	12.1%	18.8%	28.3%	80.0%	38.9%
Statewide	33.9%	39.5%	19.1%	22.2%	43.2%	26.9%	35.0%

Source: *Transfer Effectiveness Reports, 1990-1993*

Attachment 2
Texas Institutions to which ACC Students Transferred in 1996-1997

A. Community and Technical Colleges:

ACCD-Palo Alto College
ACCD-San Antonio College
ACCD-St. Philip's College
Alvin Community College
Amarillo College
Angelina College
Austin Community College*
Blinn College
Brazosport College
Central Texas College
Cisco Junior College
Coastal Bend College
College of the Mainland
Collin County CCD
DCCD-Brookhaven College
DCCD-Cedar Valley College
DCCD-Eastfield College
DCCD-El Centro College
DCCD-Mountain View College
DCCD-North Lake College
DCCD-Richland College
Del Mar College
El Paso CCD
Frank Phillips College
Galveston College
Grayson County College
HCJCD-Howard College
HCJCD-Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf
Hill College
Houston CC System
Kilgore College
Lamar University at Port Arthur
Lamar University Institute of Technology
Laredo Community College
McLennan Community College
Midland College
NHMCCD-Kingwood College
NHMCCD-Montgomery College
NHMCCD-North Harris College
NHMCCD-Tomball College
Navarro Collegue
Midland College
NHMCCD-Kingwood College
NHMCCD-Montgomery College
NHMCCD-North Harris College
NHMCCD-Tomball College
Navarro College
North Central Texas College
Northeast Texas CC
Odessa College
Panola College
Paris Junior College
Ranger College
San Jacinto College-Central Campus
San Jacinto College-North Campus
San Jacinto College-South Campus
South Plains College
South Texas Community College
Southwest Texas Junior College
Tarrant County Junior College-Northeast Campus
Tarrant County Junior College-Northwest Campus
Tarrant County Junior College-South Campus
Tarrant County Junior College-Southeast Campus
Temple College
Texarkana College
Texas Southmost college
Texas State Technical College-Harlingen
Texas State Technical College-Sweetwater
Texas State Technical College-Waco
Trinity Valley Community College
Tyler Junior College
Vernon Regional Junior College
Victoria College, The
Weatherford College
Western Texas College
Wharton County Junior College

Attachment 2 (continued)
Texas Institutions to which ACC Students Transferred in 1996-1997

B. Universities:

Angelo State University
Lamar University
Midwestern State University
Prairie View A&M University
Sam Houston State University
Southwest Texas State University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Sul Ross State University
Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College
Tarleton State University
Texas A&M International University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University at Commerce
Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Texas A&M University at Kingsville
Texas Southern University
Texas Tech University
Texas Woman's University
The University of Texas-Pan American
The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Brownsville
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at El Paso
The University of Texas at San Antonio
The University of Texas at Tyler
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
University of Houston
University of Houston-Downtown
University of Houston at Clear Lake
University of Houston at Victoria
University of North Texas
West Texas A&M University

C. Health Science Institutions

Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine (Academic)
Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy
The University of Texas School of Allied Health Sciences, Galveston
The University of Texas School of Allied Health Sciences, San Antonio
The University of Texas School of Nursing, Galveston
The University of Texas School of Nursing, San Antonio
The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston